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are themselves social inventions. Religion is historically based—a matter primarily of custom—and therefore necessarily dogmatic. Philosophy draws more immediately from science and is therefore more amenable to reason. Yet the author does not see the absurdity of his view that science is not a formative force.

There is some good characterization of current issues. Especially is the criticism of antisocial tendencies in fiction pertinent. The influence of the stage in molding public opinion is perhaps overestimated. The author sees clearly the hollowness of the cult of individualism. Incidentally he seeks to develop a category of contacts which fits his interpretation of environmental forces better than Tarde's category of imitation. The book makes a pleasant essay of the Cooley type.

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Doit-elle Mourir? Étude sur la dégression de la natalité en France.

Par ÉDOUARD HEBERLIN. Avec préface de M. GEORGES BONJEAN. Paris: Giard et Brière, 1911. Pp. xx+218. Fr. 3.

In attractive literary form the author discusses with patriotic zeal the problem of the declining birth-rate in France. He finds the causes of her decrease in numbers in the high standard of living among the upper and middle classes, and in the low standard of sanitation among the working population of the cities; the evil is made worse by the spread of bad literature and immoral practices. As palliatives he approves a tax on bachelors and childless couples, with a bounty to parents. But for thoroughgoing remedies he proposes higher wages and salaries—without telling how they are to be raised—improved housing and sanitation, a relaxation of the laws of marriage and divorce, and, above, all, a policy of “back to the land.”

To bring about the return to the soil the garden-city is advocated, with the allotment of a small plot of land to each family. The drift to the cities is deplored, and as a means of checking it the exclusion of agricultural machinery is urged—a somewhat reactionary proposal. That the work is dedicated to M. Anatole France is but one indication that the author writes as a man of letters rather than as a statistician. He concludes that France *will* die unless she rallies to meet the emergency.

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